

INSTRUCTION

Controversial Issues

Indoctrination is not an appropriate instructional technique and is not to be employed in the classroom.

One of the missions of the instructional program is to prepare well informed citizens. To this end, the board encourages the study and discussion of controversial issues in the belief that such study promotes recognition and understanding of divergent views.

When considering issues in a unit of study, the student shall have the right:

1. to study any controversial issue which has political, economic or social significance, which is within the range, knowledge, maturity and competence of the student and which does not conflict with regulations of the State Board of Education and the local school division;
2. to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere of freedom; and,
3. to form opinions on controversial issues without jeopardizing his/her position within the school.

The role of the teacher in the presentation of controversial issues is vitally important. All sides of the issue should be presented to students in a dispassionate manner with the goal that students be taught to think clearly on all matters of importance and to make their own decisions after considering the material that has been presented or can be secured on the issues.

Editor's Note

See also school board policy #2-10.1
Challenged Controversial Materials

Adopted by School Board: May 12, 1992
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